

## EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5658, which provides funds for the Sonobuoy Flight Vehicle. I am requesting funding in the FY09 Defense Authorization bill, Navy RDT&E account for the Sonobuoy Flight Vehicle, manufactured by Sparton Electronics, located at 5612 Johnson Lake Road in DeLeon Springs, Florida 32130.

The deteriorating condition of the aging P-3 Orion fleet and the recent termination of the S-3 Viking program have resulted in fewer manned airborne ASW platforms available to the Navy's surface forces. While full operational capability of the new P-8 Poseidon is not expected until 2017–2020 or beyond, Navy surface combatants are in urgent need of a low cost, organic system to rapidly deploy acoustic sensors at a distance from the force. SFV capability will be critical where there is a deficiency in organic airborne ASW assets, or in the littoral in situations where a hostile coastline poses a threat to manned ASW aircraft.

This is the first year funding will be needed to begin the research and development phase of this project. There will be no cost share, as this project is being developed for the Navy. Requested government funding of \$2.6M for the Sonobuoy Flight Kit will achieve the following: 1. Detailed design of SFV and system components. 2. Land-based flight trials verifying overall system performance, including range, speed, and endurance of the SFV. 3. Complete a production tooled design capable of supporting LRIP testing. 4. Design and fabricate a compact ship-based launch mechanism for use on LCS or other surface combatants.

## HONORING THE MEMORY OF BEN BUERGER

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Mobile County and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Ben Buerger.

Since 1956, "Mr. Ben" owned and operated Ship and Shore Supplies Inc. on Dauphin Island; his store was truly the heartbeat of the island. His business sold everything from groceries to plumbing fixtures, building supplies and boating needs. He may be best known for riding out 1979's Hurricane Frederic in his store, which was one of the most devastating hurricanes ever to hit the central Gulf Coast. Following the storm, "Mr. Ben" set up temporary quarters on the island and worked to provide a consistent supply of necessities to the island's residents when they needed them the most.

"Mr. Ben" was always there to give a helping hand. For example, in 1959, when the lift span to the old Dauphin Island Bridge became stuck, he used his own boat to ferry stranded

tourists and others to the mainland for free. In recognition of all of his efforts on behalf of the people of his community, Mobile's Press-Register awarded "Mr. Ben" the M.O. Beale Scroll of Merit in 1963 and in 1968.

To say that Ben Buerger was active in the Dauphin Island community is an understatement; he was truly an ambassador for the island. He served as president of the Dauphin Island Businessman's Association, president of the Dauphin Island Volunteer Fire Department and president of the Mobile County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department. "Mr. Ben" also served in the U.S. Navy and was a veteran of World War II.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Ben Buerger will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Barbara Buerger; his daughters, Karen Rebecca Moore and Kathryn Barker; his step-daughter, Michele Oliver; his sister-in-law, Caroline Buerger; his granddaughter, Kari Howell; his great-grandson, Nathan Howell; and his step-grandchildren, Anjel Clark and Alex Oliver—as well as the countless friends and fellow islanders he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS K. RAMSEY

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor my good friend Douglas K. Ramsey by entering his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today I pay tribute to Douglas K. Ramsey, for his service to the United States of America during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Ramsey is truly an American patriot. Following graduate studies at Harvard University, Mr. Ramsey entered the United States Air Force and served two years as a lieutenant in the field of communications intelligence.

In 1960, following his service in the United States Air Force, Mr. Ramsey joined the United States Department of State and was assigned to the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. Mr. Ramsey arrived at his duty post in Saigon, Vietnam, on May 3, 1963. While working for the State Department's diplomatic effort in Vietnam, Mr. Ramsey served in a number of capacities, including Assistant Provincial Representative in Hau Nghia.

On January 17, 1966, Mr. Ramsey was captured by a Viet Cong ambush party while transporting food and medical instruments to assist refugees and evacuees. During his time in Viet Cong custody, Mr. Ramsey suffered from malaria as well as neglect at the hands of his captors. He was finally released on February 12, 1973.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Douglas K. Ramsey. He is truly an unsung hero and an American patriot. In these times when we often recognize the members of our armed services for their sacrifice and dedication in defense of America, we must also pause and

reflect upon the service of our men and women in the diplomatic corps, who also risk their lives in defense of our way of life. I thank Mr. Ramsey for his service to America and the Boulder City community, and wish him the best in his future endeavors. As we celebrate Memorial Day this weekend, I urge my fellow Nevadans to pay tribute to the service of our fellow citizens in defense of freedom and democracy.

## TRIBUTE TO KORYNE KANESKI HORBAL

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two of my constituents including one of the most remarkable women I know—and the extraordinary things she has done and continues to do. Koryne Kaneski Horbal of Columbia Heights, Minnesota, is a tireless force for equality who defines the word trailblazer.

She has served as Chairwoman of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) Party, founder of the DFL Feminist Caucus, and a Member of the Minnesota Democratic National Committee (DNC) where she started the DNC's Women's Caucus. President Jimmy Carter named her Ambassador to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women where she served for four years. During that time she, and noted author and feminist, Gloria Steinem, became good friends and have since worked together on many projects. Koryne has been a contributing writer to MS. Magazine, and now serves as a consultant to Augsburg College, in Minneapolis. In recognition of Koryne's contribution to society, Augsburg College established the Koryne Horbal Lecture Series to continue opening the windows of opportunity for young women and men that reflect Koryne's commitment to a gender equal society. Fittingly, next month Koryne Horbal will receive a "Humane With Respect" honorary college degree from Augsburg College that she didn't have the opportunity to acquire in her younger years.

Koryne is a loyal and dear friend—and a loving grandmother. If you asked Koryne, of all her renowned accomplishments; all the barriers she's broken down; all the glass ceilings she's shattered; all the myths she's proven wrong; what she is most proud of? Undoubtedly, and without hesitation, she would say loving grandmother—to a young man named Bryce Horbal whom she has raised since infancy. Bryce is a 13 year old honors student at Columbia Heights Middle School in my district. This young man, who towers over his grandmother at over 6 feet, reflects the values that have shaped his young life—instilled in him with a nurturing and loving hand by his grandmother. Almost three years ago, this young man wrote a poem that shows us why the accolades and accomplishments Koryne has achieved pale in comparison to the grandson she has raised. Bryce Horbal is a young man of whom much will be expected.

Madam Speaker, Bryce Horbal's poem:

"I am the homeless man who lives on the corner of main street asking for spare change holding a bottle of scotch in my hand;

I am the child whose mother and father left them in an orphanage because they couldn't handle the responsibility;

I am the person peering over the edge of a building considering to jump off because life is too hard to live;

I am the soldier in Iraq who gets killed by a road-side bomb fighting for the United States of America;

I am the little kid in Africa with HIV fighting to live without food or water on their own.

I am the person holding out my hand to the homeless man on main street giving him my spare change;

I am the new family to the child in the orphanage who I have just adopted;

I am the arm that pulls the person peering over the edge backwards to the thing we call 'hope';

I am the person who jumps in front of bullets to save our troops in Iraq because every person in this world means something;

I am the cure for HIV and I have just gone into the little child in Africa along with food and water;

I am each and every one of you who cares about others."

**PINECREST SINGERS RECEIVE  
NATIONAL RECOGNITION**

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to recognize some singers from Moore County in our district who won a national competition. Because of the quality of performance of the Pinecrest High School Chamber Ensemble and Sotto Voce last year in San Francisco, both choral groups were able to participate in this year's Heritage's "Festival of Gold" National Choral Competition at Orchestra Hall in Chicago.

They were competing against 21 other high schools from across the nation and both groups took first place in their respective divisions. The scoring was determined by three reputable judges in the world of choral music and based out of 100 possible points. Out of these Pinecrest's 30 member Sotto Voce received an average of 95.33 points, placing them in first place in the Women's Choir division.

Participating in the Sotto Voce division were Paige Baker, Keyvietta Baldwin, Braylin Bayless, Lauren Bonville, Casey Cooper, Ashlee Covington, Brittany Cullifer, Leah Dannelley, Kate Davis, Kelcie Frye, Caroline Gallagher, Erin Hennings, Ginni Holderfield, Lynn Hollyfield, Alease Jeffries, Auriel Jeffries, Haley Johnson, Ruth Jones, Dani Mayo, Gina Mendence, Kelly Nelson, Alexis Oxendine, Catherine Pittman, Michelle Porter, Rachel Stewart, Stephanie Vaughn, Lindsay von Gal, Chelsi Wright, Joanne Wu, Haley Yarborough, and Elise Zawatter.

The Chamber Ensemble, with an average of 96.33, took first place as well in the Chamber Choir division. Singing in the Chamber Ensemble were Braylin Bayless, Kevin Bean, Jonathan Blue, Spencer Bowman, Lia Brazile, Matt Carriker, Rashad Covington, Tolisha Covington, Brittany Cullifer, Leah Dannelley,

Sarah Floyd, Adam Fogleman, Caroline Gallagher, Bradley Gibson, Matt Hazzard, Tyler Herbst, Alease Jeffries, Jordan Kennedy, Kelsey Leach, Kelcey Ledbetter, Le'Quita McKoy, Taylor Miles, Whitney Moore, Brenton O'Hara, Catherine Pittman, Michelle Porter, Aaron Shamberger, Ravon Sheppard, Amanda Smith, Rachel Stewart, Stephanie Vaughn, James Villone, and Josh Warthen. Pinecrest High Choral Director James Brown told The Sandhills Pulse, "This performance in Chicago solidifies just how talented and dedicated my students are in the Choral Program at Pinecrest . . . we graced each performance with intensity, passion and extreme professionalism."

In addition to the competition, a number of students were involved in an Honors Choir that was made up of selected members from all of the participating choirs. These students were responsible for learning four pieces on their own prior to arriving in Chicago and performed under the baton of Dr. Anton Armstrong, conductor of the St. Olaf Choir. The students participating in the Honors Choir from Pinecrest were Lauren Bonville, Matt Carriker, Ashlee Covinton, Kate Davis, Kelcie Frye, Caroline Gallagher, Bradley Gibson, Erin Hennings, Alease Jeffries, Auriel Jeffries, Ruth Jones, Brenton O' Hara, Alexis Oxendine, Rachel Stewart, Stephanie Vaughn and James Villone. Brown also told The Sandhills Pulse, "This year's tour will be one of my most memorable because of all aspects: my first group of graduation seniors who worked with me throughout their entire high school choral experience, fantastic chaperones and phenomenal accompanists."

Again, we are proud to report that the Sixth District is home to these outstanding young singers.

**THE DAILY 45: CURTIS HOLDEN**

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Yesterday, in Oakland, California, two men were shot and killed in separate incidents. My heart goes out to the family of 35-year-old Curtis Holden. My heart also goes out to the other victim, whose name was not immediately released. There have been 55 homicides so far this year in the city of Oakland.

How do we explain these senseless killings to our children? We must replace the culture of violence with a culture of peace.

Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

**REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE  
GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON  
UNDER PRIME MINISTER FOUAD  
SINIORA**

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, although I support the legitimate Government of Lebanon, I could not support H. Res. 1194 because it contains language calling upon the United States "to immediately take all appropriate actions to support and strengthen" the current Government of Lebanon.

I believe this wording is unnecessarily broad and could be construed by some to implicitly endorse military action against any state or organization that this administration deems a threat to the Lebanese government. Because the resolution does not expressly exclude the use of force as one of the "appropriate actions" to be taken by the United States, I was not able to support it.

**HONORING DUBUQUE SENIOR HIGH  
CHAMPION SWIMMER JORDON  
HUFF**

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by Dubuque Senior High School swimmer Jordan Huff in the 2007-2008 season. This year Jordan won two individual State championship events. Jordan captured titles in the 200-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Jordan and the Dubuque Senior High School Boys Swimming Team, both in and out of the pool. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant—the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team—said it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself." This year, Dubuque Senior High School proved just that.

**HONORING DAVID COOK**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday May 22, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David Roland Cook of Blue Springs, Missouri, for the great achievement of winning the 7th season of American Idol.

For the past 7 years, tens of thousands of Idol hopefuls from across the Nation auditioned for a shot at being the next American Idol. David started his journey by traveling from Blue Springs to the regional auditions in Omaha, Nebraska where he impressed the judges with his version of Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a Prayer." David's performance earned him a trip to Hollywood to compete on the show.